

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims:

**CLAIM LISTING:**

Claims 1-24.           Cancelled.

Claim 25.       (New) A selection system comprising a bacterial cell deficient of *araD* gene into which a vector carrying an *araD* gene, or a catalytically active fragment thereof, has been added as a selection marker.

Claim 26.       (New) A selection system according to Claim 25, wherein said *araD* gene is L-ribulose-5-phosphate 4-epimerase gene (EC 5.1.3.4.).

Claim 27.       (New) A selection system according to Claim 25, wherein said *araD* gene is mutated.

Claim 28.       (New) A selection system according to Claim 27, wherein said mutation introduces a stop codon into position 8 of said *araD* gene.

Claim 29.       (New) A selection system according to Claim 25, wherein said bacterial cell is an *Escherichia coli* cell.

Claim 30.       (New) A selection system according to Claim 29, wherein said *E. coli* is an *E. coli* strain JM109.

Claim 31.       (New) A selection system according to Claim 29, wherein said *E. coli* is an *E. coli* strain DH5 alpha.

Claim 32.       (New) A vector comprising a mutated *araD* gene with a stop codon at position 8, or a catalytically active fragment thereof, as a selection marker.

Claim 33. (New) A vector according to Claim 32, wherein said vector is an expression vector comprising:

- (a) an isolated DNA sequence encoding a nuclear-anchoring protein operatively linked to a heterologous promoter, said nuclear-anchoring protein comprising:
  - (i) a DNA binding domain which binds to a specific DNA sequence, and
  - (ii) a functional domain that binds to a nuclear component, or a functional equivalent thereof; and
- (b) an isolated, multimerized DNA sequence forming a binding site for said nuclear-anchoring protein, wherein said vector lacks a papilloma virus origin of replication, and
- (c) said mutated *araD* gene, or a catalytically active fragment thereof, as a selection marker.

Claim 34. (New) A vector according to Claim 33, wherein said vector is an expression vector comprising:

- (a) an isolated DNA sequence encoding a nuclear-anchoring protein operatively linked to a heterologous promoter, wherein said nuclear-anchoring protein is the E2 protein of Bovine Papilloma Virus type 1 (BPV), and
- (b) an isolated, multimerized DNA sequence forming a binding site for said nuclear-anchoring protein is of multiple binding sites the BPV E2 protein incorporated into the vector as a cluster, where said sites can be head-to-tail structures or can be included into said vector by spaced positioning, wherein said vector lacks a papilloma virus origin of replication, and
- (c) said mutated *araD* gene, or a catalytically active fragment thereof, as a selection marker.

- Claim 35. (New) A vector of Claim 34, further comprising a deletion in said multimerized DNA sequence.
- Claim 36. (New) A vector of Claim 34, further comprising a mutation in Shine-Dalgarno sequence.
- Claim 37. (New) *E. coli* strain DH5alpha-T1 deficient of the *araD* gene and *ulaF* gene.
- Claim 38. (New) *E. coli* strain DH5alpha-T1 deficient of the *araD* gene and *sgbE* gene.
- Claim 39. (New) *E. coli* strain DH5alpha-T1 deficient of the *araD* gene, *ulaF* gene, and *sgbE* gene.
- Claim 40. (New) *E. coli* strain AG1 deficient of the *araD* gene and *ulaF* gene.
- Claim 41. (New) *E. coli* strain AG1 deficient of the *araD* gene and *sgbE* gene.
- Claim 42. (New) *E. coli* strain AG1 deficient of the *araD* gene, *ulaF* gene, and *sgbE* gene.
- Claim 43. (New) A method of selecting cells transformed with a plasmid containing an *araD* gene, or a catalytically active fragment thereof, as a selection marker and the gene of interest, said method comprising inserting the plasmid into the *araD*-deficient host cell and growing the cells in a growth medium containing arabinose.
- Claim 44. (New) A method of Claim 43, wherein said *araD* gene is L-ribulose-5-phosphate 4-epimerase gene (EC 5.1.3.4.).

Claim 45. (New) A method of Claim 43, wherein said *araD* gene is mutated.

Claim 46. (New) A method of Claim 45, wherein said mutation introduces a stop codon into position 8 of said *araD* gene.